

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A vehicle lock mechanism having a latching housing which is mountable to a support or to the body of the vehicle in a variable position and a lock housing which can be introduced into the latching housing, wherein:

a rotary latch is mounted in the lock housing;

the latching housing is provided with an interior space for accommodating the lock housing, said interior space having side walls;

when the lock is closed, the lock housing lies within the interior space of the latching housing, with the rotary latch secured against an abutment of the latching housing;

the lock housing tapers trapezoidally in a pivoting plane of the rotary latch, becoming progressively narrower in the latching direction, towards the latching housing;

within the latching housing, sliding wedges which are resiliently displaceable in the latching direction on guide means, and have tapered edges with a wedge angle corresponding to a slope of tapered edges of the lock housing, are assigned to

each of said two tapered edges of the lock housing, the spring force acting counter to the latching direction;

the guide means comprise rough- and fine-positioning guide means;

the rough-positioning guide means comprises a bore extending in the latching direction within each latching wedge, and an associated guide rod which engages axially in the said bore and is fastened rigidly to the latching housing, with guide play between the bore and the associated guide rod;

the fine-positioning guide means in each case comprises a planar, inner guide surface of a side wall of the latching housing and a planar side surface of an associated latching wedge; and

when the lock is closed, an amount of guide play in the rough-positioning guide means allows lateral positional fixing of the latching wedges between the lock housing and the latching housing solely by means of the fine-positioning guide means.

2. The vehicle lock according to Claim 1, wherein the latching housing comprises at least one baseplate with side walls forming parts of the fine-positioning guide means.

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3. The vehicle lock according to Claim 1, wherein the abutment is fastened solely on the baseplate of the latching housing.

4. The vehicle lock according to Claim 3, wherein the abutment is designed as a U-shaped latching bracket with the ends of the U limbs fastened to a baseplate.

5. The vehicle lock according to Claim 1, wherein the latching housing comprises a baseplate and a covering which can be fitted releasably to the latter and encloses the latching wedges.

6. The vehicle lock according to Claim 1, wherein:

the lock housing has an introductory slot which encloses the abutment of the latching housing in the pivoting plane of the rotary latch laterally with respect to the latching direction;

the introductory slot has a region with a narrowest slot portion lying between its start and end; and

during latching of the lock, the abutment of the latching housing passes through the portion with the narrowest slot width.

7. A vehicle lock comprising:

a latch housing which is fixedly mountable at a variable location on a vehicle body or on a support member thereon;

a lock housing which is mountable to a movable member that is to be locked to said vehicle body, said lock housing being insertable in a latching direction into a locked position in said latch housing, and having an approximately trapezoidal shape with tapered lateral edges which define a progressively narrow transverse dimension in the latching direction;

a rotary latch mounted in said lock housing for engaging with a latching bracket mounted in said latch housing;

a pair of wedge shaped guide elements within said latch housing, each having a planar guiding surface disposed opposite an inclined surface thereof, said inclined surface being inclined at an angle that corresponds inversely to an inclination angle of the tapered lateral edges of the lock housing, said pair of guide elements being disposed at lateral sides of the latch housing, whereby the inclined surfaces of the guide elements engage with the tapered lateral edges of the lock housing as it is inserted into the latch housing;

a pair of bores extending in the latching direction,
one within each of said guide elements; and

a pair of guide rods which engage axially in each of
said bores, respectively, and resiliently support said guide
elements against movement in the latching direction;

wherein an amount of lateral play between said guide
rods and said bores allows lateral movement of said guide
elements, so that said guiding surfaces move into contact with
planar lateral interior surfaces of said latch housing as said
lock housing is inserted into the latch housing in the latching
direction.

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